



News Release
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Utah Public Health Officials Find *E. coli* in Bag of Spinach

SALT LAKE CITY - Public health officials from the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and the Salt Lake Valley Health Department (SLVHD) have confirmed that *E. coli* O157:H7, the strain associated with the recent national outbreak, has been found in a bag of Dole baby spinach purchased in Utah. Laboratory tests which found the *E. coli* were conducted by the Utah Public Health Laboratory (UPHL).

The Salt Lake Valley Health Department submitted the bag of spinach for testing as part of an investigation into *E. coli* illness associated with eating spinach which came from the bag. Testing confirmed that the strain of *E. coli* from the bag of spinach is the same as the strain associated with the national outbreak.

UPHL is the second laboratory in the country to confirm the presence of *E. coli* in spinach associated with the national outbreak. The UDOH, SLVHD and the UPHL's efforts are part of a national investigation into *E. coli* infections linked to eating spinach.

To date, seventeen Utahns have become ill from *E. coli* associated with the national outbreak. FDA has determined that the spinach implicated in the outbreak was grown in three counties (Monterey, San Benito and Santa Clara) in California. Fresh spinach grown outside these counties can be safely eaten.

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